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User Guide | Ref No: 1271

Barrister Services

Framework Agreement





This is an interactive PDF

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About YPO

YPO provides procurement solutions for public sector organisations to set up or renew contracts for a wide range of services.

Established in 1974 by a group of 13 local authorities, we're the UK's largest public sector buying organisation and we're still 100% publicly owned today. We work closely with our suppliers and collaborate with other public sector buying organisations to achieve efficiencies and value for money, returning all our profits back into the heart of the public sector. Our team of qualified procurement professionals can offer advice, guidance and expertise on procurement, as well as regular engagement and communication to make sure your objectives are achieved.

Overview

Start date

31.10.2025

Expiry date

30.10.2029

Extension(s) (if applicable)

1 x 48 months until 30 October 2033

Contracting authority (CA) call-off period

Customers can specify a contract period, based on the term that will best suit their requirements. YPO recommend a call-off period of no longer than 4 years.

Rebate

As rebate is a prohibited transaction by the Bar Standards Board this framework operates on a pay to access basis.

Geographical location(s)

National

Specification, overview and lot structure

YPO understands that the spend on Barrister services in today's market is both considerable and necessary, this is alongside public sector funds being ever more constrained and the growing calls for improved visibility of spend.

Across its 8 lots this Framework provides access to reputable Chambers with national scope and aims to cover any and all requirements that public sector bodies may have.

Lot 1 – Children's Services

Including but not limited to the following:

- Adoption and Children Act 2002 proceedings
- Age Assessments
- Appeals at all levels of the Courts
- Care proceedings
- Case Management Hearings (including Issues Resolution Hearings (IRH))
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority claims
- Contested Interim Hearings
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Protection Orders
- Forced Marriage Protection Orders
- Human Rights Claims
- Injunctions
- Local authority functions under the Care Act 2014 and any relevant legislation pertaining to children
- Other Family proceedings
- Public Interest Immunity

Lot 2 – Adult Services

Including but not limited to the following:

- Community care
- Continuing Healthcare Funding
- Court of Protection proceedings
- Displacement of relatives
- First & Upper Tribunal (Mental Health)
- Forced Marriages
- Inherent Jurisdiction
- Judicial Review
- Leaving Care
- Local authority functions under the Care Act 2014 and any relevant legislation pertaining to adults
- Mental capacity and deprivation of liberty
- Mental Health

Lot 3 – Planning (including Licensing)

Including but not limited to the following:

- Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs)
- Green Belt
- Highways
- Housing
- Injunctions
- Judicial Review
- Mixed Use Developments
- Planning Appeals
- Retail
- Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy agreements
- Statutory Challenges (Lands Tribunal)
- Town and Village Greens

Specification, overview and lot structure continued

Lot 4 – Employment

Full range of contentious employment matters, including but not limited to:

- Arbitration
- Bullying
- Contractual disputes
- Crown Court and High Court claims
- Discrimination
- Dismissal
- Employment Appeals Tribunal claims
- Employment Tribunal Claims
- Equal Pay
- Harassment
- Mediation
- Pensions
- Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment Regulations (TUPE)
- Victimisation
- Whistleblowing

Lot 5 – Administrative & Public Law

A full range of administrative and public law matters, including but not limited to the following:

- Administrative Court claims
- Court of Appeal claims
- European Court of Human Rights claims
- Judicial Review
- Statutory appeals
- Supreme Court claims
- Ultra vires

Lot 6 – Housing

Including but not limited to the following:

- Allocations
- Anti-social behaviour proceedings
- Disrepair claims
- Houses in Multiple
- Occupation (HMOs)
- Homelessness
- Housing Act 2004 disputes in the First Tier Tribunal
- Injunctions
- Judicial Review
- Landlord and tenant matters (including local authority)
- Leasehold disputes
- Leasehold Valuation
- Tribunals
- Mortgage repossessions
- Possession and eviction proceedings

Specification, overview and lot structure

Lot 7 – Education

Including but not limited to the following:

- Admissions, including appeals to Independent Appeals Panel and the Office of the Schools'
- Attendance
- Complaints and disputes
- Conversions (Academy)
- Discrimination claims in the SENDIST
- Exam results and degree classification appeals
- Exclusion and suspension cases and appeals
- Human Rights and Equality
- Judicial Review

Lot 8 – WYLAW

The main activities under this Lot are likely to be legal representation in judicial proceedings before the courts and services in preparation for such proceedings, or where there is a tangible indication and high probability that a matter will become subject to such proceedings, including but not limited to; advice or guidance on interpretation and implications of legal matters, legal research or analysis, drafting and reviewing legal and non-legal documents.
Please Note: Instructing Officers may not always attend court/tribunal hearings in support of Lawyers.

Childcare Law

Advice and Representation in respect of all aspects of the law relating to Childcare Proceedings including but not limited to Services provided in respect of:

- Adoption and Children Act 2002 proceedings
- Case Management Hearings (including Issues Resolution Hearings (IRH))
- Children Act 1989 proceedings
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) claims
- Contested Interim Hearings
- Deprivation of Liberty Proceedings under the Inherent Jurisdiction
- Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders
- Forced Marriage Protection Orders
- Judicial Review Proceedings
- The law relating to Adoption
- The law relating to Fostering
- Work relating to international issues with children



Benefits of using the framework

YPO's framework agreements are established to allow customers to purchase goods, works or services from suppliers/providers via either direct award or further competition. Benefits of using the framework agreement:

YPO wants to offer its members and the wider public sector a solution that provides flexibility, stability and ease of use. With that in mind the Framework boasts competitive rates locked in for an initial 2-year period.

Additionally, as Barrister services are exempt from the PA23, the solution operates more like a DPS in that Chambers can apply to join at any point during the life-cycle of the framework, meaning that Chambers that Contracting Authorities already have a relationship with, can apply to join and maintain continuity of service.



Awarded chambers

As this list is likely to regularly change with the addition of new Chambers, an up to date list can be found on the Framework page;

[Barrister Services Framework | YPO](#)

Circuits coverage

Can be found at this link; [Barrister Services Framework | YPO](#)



How to award / call-off from the framework

To access the framework agreement, customers should complete and return the Customer Access Agreement.

- Please note that due to the Bar Standards Board's regulations, we are unable to charge Chambers a rebate for this solution, and therefore have to charge customers an access fee to cover the administrative, procurement and management costs to have this solution in place. **This fee must be paid prior to access being given to the relevant documentation for using the framework.**

- Award Without Competition and Further Competition are both available under this solution. Award Without Competition is allowed due to performing a full evaluation on both quality and social value and although Chambers can apply at any point, it is in fact a framework and as such you are still able to direct award under the terms.

Direct award

A direct award requires a Contracting Authority to carry out an assessment on the criteria set in the YPO framework documentation to decide which provider they would like to award a call-off to, this can be based on price, quality and social value / sustainability.

At direct award stage you need to ensure that the provider has all the relevant information required to deliver the service you need. **You must also ensure that you specify that you are wanting to call off from the YPO framework and using the YPO rates.**

Once the provider has been selected, customers simply need to complete the order form and send it to the provider. The order form contains the standard terms and conditions that providers have already agreed to, and these cannot be amended for a direct award.



Further competition

A further competition gives Contracting Authorities the ability to create a specification, method statements (questions) and pricing that is relevant to their own organisational requirements.

Customers will be able to evaluate providers on quality, social value / sustainability and price in their further competition

The customer will be responsible for the further competition process with assistance from YPO on the process and documentation review if required.

The specification detailed in the further competition template should give providers a good understanding of the specific services you want them to deliver. There are no set questions for CAs to include in their further competition, however we would suggest that these are related back to your specification.

Once you have created your further competition document you are required to publish the documents to all providers on the relevant Lot(s). This can be published via your own e-Tendering system or by using the YPO portal.

There are no minimum or maximum timescales that a further competition should be published within, however YPO would suggest that the timescales are proportionate to the detail of the specification and documents you publish. Please ensure that providers have sufficient time to respond to your further competition template.

Once the deadline has ended, the response documents should be evaluated in accordance with the criteria in the further competition.

Clarification responses, evaluation of submissions, drafting of award letters and contracts, and applicable Contract Award Notices are elements of the process that will need to be completed by the customer.

Customers must inform YPO of the outcome of any further competition they undertake themselves.

A 10-day standstill period is then voluntary under the YPO framework. YPO would suggest carrying out a standstill period for a long term or high value call-off contract.



Terms and conditions

YPO has agreed a set of framework terms and conditions; these are between YPO and the provider. These framework terms and conditions cannot be amended by the Contracting Authority or the provider.

To supplement the framework terms and conditions, YPO has created call-off terms and conditions for contracting authorities to put in place with the provider.

The call-off terms and conditions can be utilised to ensure that they fit your requirements and if both parties agree, they can be amended to support the delivery of the service (for further competition only).

Once the call-off terms and conditions are agreed you will need to specify these within the order form under the “amendment to terms and conditions” section.

The order form then forms the legally binding contract between you the customer and the provider.

Contact information

For further information or to discuss individual requirements, please use the contact details below:

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